

TWO NEW NORTH AMERICAN ANTS

BY M. R. SMITH

State College, Mississippi

Recently I received for identification from Illinois, two species of ants which I believe to be new to science. One of these, a *Leptothorax*, was collected by Miss Mary Talbot at Plainsfield. To this species, which is characterized by its peculiar type of sculpturing, I have assigned the name *foveata*. The other new ant is a member of the *Lasius Acanthomyops* group. Workers of this species were collected at Herrin, by Drs. T. H. Frison and H. H. Ross. Although this ant has many characters that will set it apart from its cogeners, I have chosen the name *parvula* for it because of its unusually small size.

Dr. W. M. Wheeler confirms my opinion that both of these species are new.

Leptothorax foveata sp. nov.

Worker:—Length 2.43 mm.

Head moderately large, excluding the mandibles, noticeably longer than broad, with moderately convex sides, rounded posterior angles, and straight posterior border. Eyes large and prominent, oval, convex, placed near the middle of the sides of the head. Mandibles with 5 distinct teeth. Clypeus convex, with anterior border entire. Antennæ 11-segmented; scape lacking its greatest width or slightly more of attaining the posterior border of the head; first funicular segment longer than segments 1 and 2 taken together. Thorax short, robust, convex above; viewed dorsally the humeri are rounded, the pro-mesonotal suture very faintly visible, and the meso-epinotal suture only slightly more perceptible. Epinotal spines moderately long and robust, directed upward, outward and backward. Petiole viewed in lateral profile with feebly concave anterior sur-

face, faintly convex or flattened superior surface, which posteriorly rapidly descends toward the postpetiole. Postpetiole from above with convex node, which is very distinctly broader than long.

Head, thorax, petiole, and postpetiole, with foveate impressions, subopaque; those on the head much finer, especially on the front and vertex where they are intermingled with very fine longitudinal rugulæ; remainder of head, and dorsum of thorax, petiole, and postpetiole reticulate-foveate. Gaster glabrous, appendages very similar.

Head, thorax, petiole, postpetiole, and gaster sparsely covered with short, erect, clavate hairs of a grayish or light yellowish color. Pubescence very fine and appressed, extremely sparse, most easily discernible on appendages.

Color deep reddish brown or ferruginous brown, with lighter appendages and gaster. Eyes and mandibular teeth black.

Described from a single worker, the type of which is in my collection.

The type worker, and an abnormal worker specimen were collected by Miss Mary Talbot in the nest of *Aphænogaster fulva* subsp. *aquia* Buckley in a roadside ditch at Plainfield, Illinois on May 25, 1933.

This species is so different from all of the *Leptothorax* with which I am familiar that I am somewhat hesitant in trying to assign it to its proper taxonomical position. In Wheeler's key to the species of *Leptothorax* (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. p. 223, (1903) the specimen would apparently key down to the *acervorum canadensis* group. From *canadensis* the species can be distinguished by the following characters: (1) lack of a distinct longitudinal impression on the clypeus, (2) longer scape, (3) shorter thorax, (4) poorly developed pro-mesonotal and meso-epinotal sutures, and (5) differently shaped petiole and postpetiole.

The most striking characteristics to me are the unusually prominent eyes of the worker, as well as the peculiar type of sculpturing; the species has, therefore, been very aptly named *foveata*.

***Lasius (Acanthomyops) parvula* sp. nov.**

Worker:—Length 3.0 mm.

Head, excluding the mandibles, only very slightly longer than broad, narrower in front than behind, and with straight or very feebly excavated posterior border and regularly convex sides. Mandibles, each with 6 to 7 very distinct teeth and some smaller, less defined denticulæ; the superior surface without teeth as with *L. interjectus*. Eyes extremely small, resembling somewhat those of *L. flavus* subsp. *nearcticus*, apparently with not more than 6 ommatidia in their greatest diameter. Antennal scapes short, scarcely if at all, exceeding the posterior border of the head. Petiole apparently lower and thicker than with *L. interjectus*; anterior surface convex, posterior surface flattened, and superior surface transverse, entire.

Body, and coxæ and femora of legs covered with rather abundant, moderately long, erect, pale yellowish hairs. Pubescence fine and appressed, sparsely covering all parts of body except the appendages.

Pale yellowish, especially the gaster, which is lighter than the other parts of the body.

Described from 4 workers, the cotypes of which are in my collection.

These ants were collected by Drs. T. H. Frison and H. H. Ross of the Illinois State Natural History Survey at Herrin, Illinois, on October 12, 1933. According to these gentlemen the ants were collected in the soil beneath a rotten log in an open wood lot. They were associated with *Lasius niger* var.

That this species belongs to the subgenus *Acanthomyops* is clearly indicated by the 3-segmented maxillary palpi of the workers. At a glance one would assign the species to *L. flavus nearcticus* because of the pale color, small eyes and general size of the workers. I believe this to be a perfectly valid species as evidenced by the following characters: (1) the extremely small size of the worker, (2) unusually small eyes, (3) very short antennal scapes, (4) lack of teeth on the superior surface of the mandibles, and (5) pale yellow color. This is apparently the smallest North American *Acanthomyops* that has yet been described.